onmental protection should be undertaken in the school system at all grade jvels.

« States should play a key role in expanding the number of well-trained hy-rogeologists by providing more support of hydrogeologic programs within bate universities and colleges.

• A public intervener-type program should be considered when public confi-ence or interest is not recognized or adequately incorporated in ground water rotection programs. A program such as those in Wisconsin and New Jersey can Tovide the public with an avenue for legal action to address a perceived prob-sm, and at the same time prevent nonmeritorious suits from being filed against n agency. The public intervener should not be subject to political pressure or hanges in administrative policy. An independent public advisory group could elp to screen the actions to be taken.

\ole of Economic Analysis

Effective ground water protection programs have significant costs associ-ted with them that can, in some cases, exceed the value of the resource or he costs of remedial actions. While analytical techniques are evolving rap-ily and data bases are growing, significant application difficulties remain, "hese difficulties will not be removed until serious attempts are made to ierform economic analyses of ground water protection programs and strat-gies. Meanwhile, social, political, and economic conditions continue to volve, shifting costs and values so that it is likely to become more and more [ifficult to strike the right balance between prevention and remedy, or be-ween universal policies and problem-specific measures.

The committee believes that economic analysis is one of the useful ways pro-;rams and strategies can be judged. Economic analyses should be conducted of xisting and proposed ground water protection measures so that experience can •e gained with techniques and data requirements, and decision-makers can be-ome familiar with the results of such analyses. Such analyses have been per-ormed in connection with hazardous waste cleanup activities (assessment of uperfund natural resource damages, for example) and may be useful in evalu-ting ground water protection programs.

Comparison of Governmental Ground Water Responsibilities

The developing roles of various levels of government are confusing and, s recommended earlier, should be clarified and expanded in a number of reas. Table 2.1 shows one concept of the relative roles and functions of ;overnment that may enhance the reader's understanding of the ways in vhich the needs identified in this report can be satisfied.